TIMBER TALK

PUBLICATION OF THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODEN MONEY COLLECTORS

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Volume 47, Issue #4

April 2021

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Al Munro (chairman)

Norm Belsten

Dave Gillespie (On)

Michael Turrini

Kevin Day-Thorburn

Robert (Bob) Fritsch

Hello!

Due to the cancellation of this year's the Ontario Numismatic Association (ONA) convention, we have been offered to host a Zoom meeting as a replacement for the in person meeting usually hosted by the Southern Ontario Chapter of CAWMC. Our time is Saturday, April 10, 2021 at 11:15 am. You will receive an email containing the details on how to attend the meeting. After consideration, and given the limited time allotted, the format will be kept simple. The meeting will be informal, such as the in-person one we always had at the ONA, plus a bit of show and tell. Should you want to contribute to this show and tell, please send me a picture, video, etc. and I'll forward it to our host, the ONA, for inclusion in the program. The nice thing about this virtual meeting is that you will be able to attend from your own living room, anywhere in North America. I can't wait to see you!

April is also the month, every two years, in which we call for nominations of officers to lead your Association. If you have time, ideas, or simply want to lend a hand, please consider joining the Board of Directors. The nomination form is on page 10 in this issue.

Looking forward to seeing you on April 10th. Please consider contributing an article of your own for this publication. It will be appreciated and will earn you a thank you wood as well.

Stay Safe!

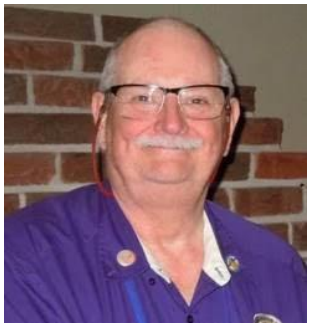
France

Featured Wood of the Month

TRYING TO FORGET 2020 by Bob Fritsch, CAWMC

The nasty year of 2020 has drawn to a close, and while we are all trying to forget it, its influence will be felt for a long time to come. With the new vaccines in production and distribution, we see the light at the end of the tunnel and hope it is not an oncoming train. We are all looking for a return to the way things were before lockdowns, social distancing and all the other disruptions the pandemic brought about. We look forward to the resumption of coin shows, conventions, and face-to face meetings, but are not too sure when we will be out from under the scourge. But we are getting there.

Much as we would like to forget 2020, we still need some means to remember all we have gone through. With that in mind, I created a new wood for the event: I SURVIVED 2020! as shown. The reverse lists many of the restrictions we operated under, may they fade into the past soon. The wood was made by The Old Time Wooden Nickel Company of San Antonio in their color of the month for December – pink with 250 produced. Each member of CAWMC will get one through Ross Kingdon, and the rest given out as I start attending events again. Should the supply run out, the reorder will be in the current color of the month. It is all in the spirit of a bit of levity in a time we want behind us quickly.



Bob

Nice Save Calgary!

So, you thought you had "the" convention wood advertising Calgary as the host of the 2019 RCNA convention? Maybe not.

All facilities related to a given convention are negotiated four to five years prior to the event. During this time, it happens sometimes that the name of the host hotel changes from a relatively short one, to another, impossibly long. That's what happened in Calgary, where the "Coast Plaza Hotel" became the "Best Western Premier Calgary Plaza Hotel", requesting a new wood design, where the famous boots got smaller and the host city name moved as well. Still, two very attractive woods, I wish you have in your collection.

9 Denier Wood Project

Numismatique (IQN), fifteen (15) numismatic organizations from Canada and the United States joined together to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the issuance of the 9 denier coin in 1721, the first copper coin issued especially for the French Colonies. The aim of the project is to issue a 38 mm laser-engraved wooden token with one side a reproduction of one of the sides of the original coin as well as the inscriptions 300 ANS D'HISTOIRE / 300 YEARS OF HISTORY and the dates 1721 et 2021. The other side will present the logo of each issuing organization.

The tokens will be available around mid-May and the quantity of coins issued will vary according to the issuers.

CAWMC has ordered enough woods for distribution to its members. You can also order your (other) favorite tokens from each issuer for $ 3 plus $ 2 for mail. Full sets including all 15 tokens are also available at a cost of $ 45, plus $ 5 for mail. As the number of complete sets is limited, they must be ordered before May 10 from Yvon Marquis. Payment can be made by check payable to Yvon Marquis and sent to C.P. 42 Succ Lévis, Lévis, Qc. G6V 6N6 or by Interac transfer to the email address **yvonmarquis48@gmail.com**

On another matter…

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!

2021 is an election year. Officers are elected for a period of 2 years. This call for nominations is for:

President,

Vice-President,

Secretary-Treasurer,

5 directors

Would you like to nominate someone?

Please fill nomination form on page 10

Chips from the Woodpile …. By Dave Gillespie

The Editor's job is never done or at times very easy as Lou Vesh found that out whilst creating the 1994 November issue of Timber Talk. Living in the woods, as you might remember from earlier reports, Lou had to travel some distances to have the newsletter printed. At his usual first choice the machine was "out of order". Being 150 miles from home he made a quick decision on a second printer, which was a disaster. After carefully proving the counter attendant with printing instructions he proceeded to shop throughout the store. Little did he know that his instructions would change hands twice in his absence. It wasn't until arriving home later that day that he noticed, the eight page newsletter had been printed single sided not both sides making each newsletter overweight adding about $50.00 to the cost of postage. The newsletter was reprinted a few days later and the manager of the second business provided him with a full refund. All is well that ends well but certainly not without a few bumps along the road!

C.A.W.M.C. and its members welcomed in 1995 with a new Bulletin Editor, Ross Kingdon of Bramalea, Ontario. This voluntary position is extremely time consuming and no easy task as our current President and Editor France will attest. Surely, Ross must have known that he had big shoes to fill with Lou Vesh stepping down but as we read on through the next 14 years of TimberTalk I have to say and our readers will agree that he was more than up for the challenge. GREAT JOB ROSS !!!

Did you know that Saint Eligius Feast Day is annually celebrated on the first day of December? Rick Criag of West Hill, Ontario issued two woods in 1995 featuring St. Eligius (588-688 A.D.) known as the "Patron Saint of Numismatists". He was born in France and as a very young man was apprenticed to the Master of the Mint. King Clothair summoned him to Paris and commissioned him to produce a throne. Shortly thereafter the young goldsmith presented his King with a golden, bejeweled masterpiece of a throne. Thereafter, he was appointed a member of the Royal Household and Master of the Royal Mint.

In an earlier "Chips" article, I mentioned the collection of Whooping Crane woods produced by Glen Littrell and recommended that if you haven't seen these woods, you ask a member of your coin club to bring some or all of them out to a meeting. Well, I have another set of woods that is highlighted in the July 1995 newsletter and I hope that you will also get an opportunity to see these woods. They were hand made and painted by artist, lignadenarist, and fellow member Lou Vesh whilst living out in the woods at West Guilford, Ontario. Lou entitled the woods "Birds of My Garden" and each year, over the course of seven years, he produced and hand painted images of two different birds that frequented his property. He produced 100 pair of woods annually and sold the woods to members and collectors with all of the money being donated to C.A.W.M.C.

I*f you have the complete set, you will have fourteen different hand painted bird woods. These woods are a nice addition to any collection and very rarely turn up at auctions or sales.*

One of our past members, Bob Brown of Highspire, P.A. wanted everyone to know back in 1995 that he held memberships in many organizations throughout North America and as he was receiving woods from parts of Canada and the United States, he determined that the Canadian Post Office did a better job of breaking woods as they travelled through the mail.

We have all heard about and read stories relating to Tenino, Washington home of the first legal wooden money of modern times. BUT did you know that Mr. Don Major was both the editor of the local paper and operator of the "mint". In recognition of his importance to the community Don Major was named "the father of wooden money".

Your wooden money collection should be growing by the summer of1996 as Norm Belsten reported that he had catalogued and recorded over 5,700 Canadian wood listings.

AND now for another quiz question:

1. *Which member has held the office of C.A.W.M.C. President for the longest period of time?*

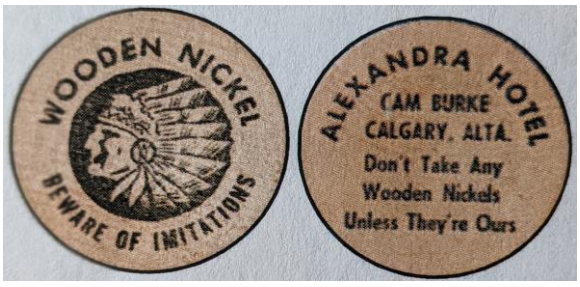
'Til next time …… Let the Chips lie where they fall. Dave Gillespie

Three of the 14 Lou Vesh's" Birds of my garden " series with common reverse

Answer to the Chips Question from February 2021

*Q: **In what city is the Alexandria Hotel located?***

A: Calgary, Alberta – wood # 8140-006



CALLING ALL ALIENS

by Eugene Simms

Thanks to the generosity of my friend Julian and his latest contribution to my wooden money collection I've been inspired to share with you this interesting bit of Canada's 1967 Centennial history.

Wooden nickels may seem a little strange to some, but the events they immortalize can be even stranger.

Was there ever a more magical year in Canada's history than 1967?

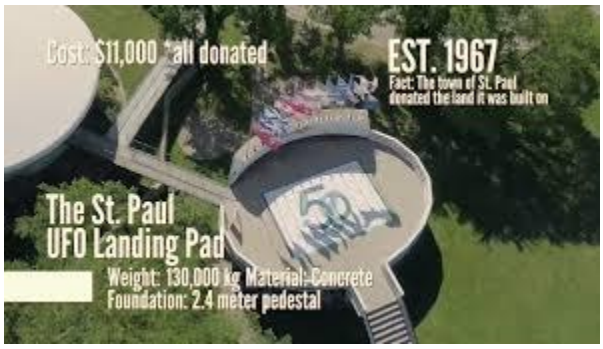
The country was celebrating its 100th birthday and the centrepiece of the party was Expo 67 in Montreal.

1967, the year Canada seemed to be at the centre of the world.

On the airwaves, the big pop hit of the year was Bobby Gimby's CA-NA-DA. Saccharine and sweet, it was performed by a group of youngsters whose youthful enthusiasm was infectious—especially if you were young and impressionable as I certainly was at the time.

Eleven years old and growing up in small town Newfoundland, a million miles removed from the excitement and wonder I was watching on the small screen, the window through which the outside world came to me.

I still remember the excitement and my longing to be a part of the magic that was Expo 67 in Montreal. I did not get to visit the fair but it did install in me a lifelong love affair with everything Expo 67. Including my more recent charter membership in—The Canadian Centennial Collectors Club.


Cost: $11,000 *all donated
EST. 1967
Fact: The town of St. Paul donated the land it was built on
The St. Paul
UFO Landing Pad
Weight: 130,000 kg Material: Concrete
Foundation: 2.4 meter pedestal

As part of centennial celebrations, the government had pulled out all the stops and sponsored communities across the country to compete and to out do each other with unique centennial projects. One of the most unusual was in the town of St. Paul, Alberta, about 240 km northeast of Edmonton.

The community not only built a 130-ton concrete alien-landing pad, it invited aliens from outer space to immigrate to Canada.

The landing pad has a set of stairs that lead dramatically up to the oval-shaped pad whose shape looks like it was inspired by 1950s science fiction films.

The designers took the needs of potential alien visitors into account. In case they were a little disoriented from their long journey, they could figure out where they landed by looking at a map of Canada conveniently placed on the back wall.

A row of provincial flags ran on top and gave the pad a little more height and a festive air. Visiting aliens wouldn't have known it but the pad was made with stones from each province.

Calling the Aliens…Continued

The official June 3, 1967 opening of the world's first UFO landing pad attracted dignitaries from across the country, including a federal cabinet minister, military dignitaries and representatives from local First Nations. During the grand opening, St. Paul was declared the Centennial Capital of Canada.

In anticipation of all these new visitors the local Lavoie Hotel, like any smart business trying to attract new customers and commemorate an important event decided to issue a 1–1/2" Wooden Nickel/Token stating in black ink, "Flying Saucer Landing Token"—"Good For 50¢ Cent Lodging at Lavoie." The other side stated, "Lavoie Hotel" St. Paul, Alberta, with the centennial logo and the date 1867–1967 centered.

The Hotel has long since burnt to the ground with only the unredeemed lodging tokens to remind us of what could have been, but remarkably, the landing pad is still standing and continues to evolve and attract visitors. In the 1990s, a flying saucer-shaped tourist information center and UFO Museum was opened with many interesting exhibits, including photos of other supposed landing sites, mysterious cattle mutilations, as well as crop circles.

Even though the site was never used for its immediate purpose, it attracts many tourists and is a local landmark. In 2000 the International Conference on UFOs was held there. They even opened a special hotline for UFO witnesses, where you can call the toll-free number and report on unidentified flying objects. You can call at any time and you will not be mistaken for a madman: 1–888-SEE-UFOS and 1–888–733–8367.

There is a time capsule deposited inside the concrete that will be opened in 2067 the 100th anniversary of the platform. I may have to pass on that one.

Adapted from an article by Kevin Griffin in The Vancouver Sun—January 24, 2014. Additional information and photos from the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce website. Reprinted with permission from the October 2020 issue of CCCC.

The Societe Numismatique de Quebec 60 th Anniversary woods program

The Societe Numismatique de Quebec celebrated it's 60 th Anniversary in 2020. Although the physical celebrations were postponed, due to Covid-19 and the resulting health restrictions, the woods program went ahead. The Societe issued a 60 th anniversary wood, using the logo of the SNQ , modified to include the year 1960 and 2020 on the obverse and a special anniversary logo on the reverse.

Then all members were invited to issue their own personalized wood, using a common SNQ logo for the other side. 26 members have taken advantage of this offer. Each issuer, through exchange of woods coordinated by the 60th ann. committee, ended up with two complete sets of all woods issued, one of piéforts and one regular thickness woods.

Each issuing member was asked to describe their own wood. The woods created, and all thoughts behind them, will be presented in Timber Talk over the next 2 or three future issues.

Technical data of all tokens

The tokens were produced by GraphX from Quebec. They are made of wood and laser cut. The tokens measure 35mm in diameter. There were 26 double-layered (piéfort) tokens produced for each issuer. The number of single thickness tokens varies for each issuer.

Obverse of all tokens

Emblem of the Société Numismatique de Québec, inspired by the design appearing on the penny issued by the Banque du Québec in 1852; which reproduced the first emblem of the city of Quebec, adopted in 1833. In caption: SOCIÉTÉ NUMISMATIQUE DE QUÉBEC and 1960-2020, in reference to the 60th anniversary of the S.N.Q.

60th Anniversary logo

The 60th anniversary logo: a diamond with the dates 1960-2020. The 14 stars around the motif represent the 14 founding members. The 11 facets of the diamond represent the 11 editors of the newsletter over the years. The SNQ struck 200 single thickness tokens.

REVERSE # 0237 (YVON MARQUIS)

I just wanted to pay tribute to the founders and builders of the S N Q because it is because to them that we can now share our hobby. In the center, my name and membership number. Yvon had a total of 75 tokens cut, including 26 piéforts and 49 regulars.

REVERSE # 0317 (FRANÇOIS LAPERRIÈRE)

I joined the SNQ in December 1979. My 40 consecutive years as a member were therefore completed with the arrival of 2020. This anniversary is represented by the 40 beads around the coin and by the central inscription. There is also my name and my membership number. The fleur de lys indicates that I am from Quebec. François had 60 tokens cut, including 26 piéforts and 34 regulars.

REVERSE # 0363 (JEAN-LUC MARRET)

In the center, the coat of arms of the Marret de Vieil-Brioude family: Écu (silver) with three martlets (sand). Even though I could not prove my genealogical connection to this one, I adopted this coat of arms. On the left, a stylized fleur-de-lys represents my Quebec "nationality". On the right, a rose evokes my attachment to my maternal great-grandfather, Jules Gravereaux, creator at the end of the 19th century of the first and most important rose garden in the world, in L'Haÿ-les-Roses, in the Parisian suburbs. In legend: JEAN-LUC MARRET - NUMISMATE - GENEALOGIST - RHODOPHILE (lover of roses). Jean-Luc had 60 tokens cut, including 26 piéforts and 34 regulars.

REVERSE # 0380 (CLAUDE BERNARD)

My interest in numismatics didn't really started until the late 1970s. It was while having breakfast that I noticed, in the coin dish that was used as money for my lunch, a 5-cent coin dated 1930. From that moment I started to check all the coins in the house in the hope of finding a treasure. My research quickly enabled me to place all the pennies dated between 1937 and 1978 side by side. Proud of my findings, I brought them all to the college. A classmate then gave me my first piece of advice: There was a better way to classify my pieces than to affix them to a piece of cardboard with transparent tape. Thanks to him, I made my first visit to a coin dealer to buy myself an album. The motif of my wooden token is reminiscent of that 5-cent coin that made me a coin collector. This was the first step that led me to the SNQ, two years later, in October 1980, during the 20th anniversary celebrations, to become a member - 1980-2020. Claude cut 60 tokens, including 26 piéforts and 34 regulars.

REVERSE # 0725 (PIERRE RAYMOND)

Being a collector of coins issued during the period under the French Regime, I chose the representation of the first coin struck especially for the American Colonies, the famous 15 sols 1670 A coin, which celebrates its 350 years this year while the SNQ turns 60. The inscriptions all around give my membership number and my name. Pierre had a total of 75 pieces cut, including 26 piéforts and 49 regular tokens.

REVERSE # 0930 (HENRI-PAUL TREMBLAY)

I am a native of Forestville, a fishing and hunting paradise. My father introduced me to these activities when I was 12 years old. When I was 14, he dropped me off 60 miles from Forestville, near Lac Saut-au-Cochon, during moose hunting. With a tent, food, a canoe, a 410 rifle and a 30-30 Winchester 1897, I must have spent 7 days alone. My dad wanted to introduce me to this way of life because in the 1930s he, his father and his brother would go trapping all winter near Lac des Baies. One of my fondest memories. At the top of the coin my name and at the bottom my SNQ member number. Henri-Paul had a total of 70 token cut, including 26 piéforts and 44 regulars.

REVERSE # 0938 (RÉNALD SOUCY)

As a numismatist the maple leaf is very symbolic for me. It has been found on Canadian coins since 1858 and furthermore is the symbol of Canada. The maple leaves on my token mark the disappearance of the 1 cent coin in 2012. I wrote my name at the top and my SNQ membership number at the bottom. Rénald had a total of 60 tokens including 26 piéforts and 34 regulars.

Nomination Form for July 2021 to July / August 2023
Officers and Directors

Please ensure that if you are nominating somebody, that you have confirmed his / her willingness to stand BEFORE submitting your nomination form. Nomination forms should be sent to **Dave Gillespie at** dakar57@hotmail.com so as to reach him BEFORE **May 12th, 2021**. If more than one person nominated for a position, we will then send out Election Ballot Forms in our June 2021 Timber Talk (or by separate e-mail). At our Virtual Annual Meeting during the virtual RCNA Convention (date to be announced) we will call for a motion to confirm the Officers and Directors (it is not mandatory for nominated parties to be in attendance). All executive positions are up for re-election as indicated below:

I would like to nominate the following CAWMC current members as indicated beside the position below [PLEASE PRINT THE PERSON(s) FULL NAMES]:

For President: _____

For Vice-President: _____

For Secretary-Treasurer / Membership Chairperson: _____

For Directors:

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

5. _____

The above person(s) are nominated by: (print YOUR name) _____

Date: (MM/DD/YYYY) _____ SIGN YOUR NAME HERE: _____

Scan and e-mail to **dacar57@hotmail.com** or send by Canada Post mail service to Mr. **Dave Gillespie**, 3 Old Oak Lane, Mono ON L9W 4B1. MUST reach Dave by **May 12th, 2021**. ONLY those nomination forms SIGNED by the nominator, will be accepted.